

Fresh Products Branch Directive

FPB-605
4/15/92

CERTIFICATION OF GIFT PACKS

I. PURPOSE

This directive is set forth to standardize Branch policy and procedures for inspecting Gift Packs.

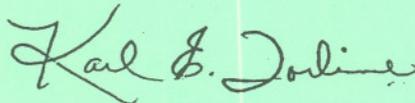
II. BACKGROUND

Headquarters has been asked if different types of citrus, as well as other products, mixed in a container could be certified to a U.S. grade. It has recently come to our attention that at least one Federal Marketing Order requires that such "Gift Packs" be certified as meeting a minimum grade and that such product has been certified to grade in some locations for many years.

III. POLICY

Grade may be certified on the individual commodities in such packs. However, mixtures of varieties and/or types of a single commodity would cause that commodity to fail to grade if the standard has as a requirement that the fruit must be of "similar varietal characteristics." For example: Navel oranges and Valencia oranges could not be in the same individual container.

Remember that sample requirements for Florida and Texas citrus have minimum sample size requirements which must be met. This shall be done by opening enough contiguous packages to formulate the required fifty and/or thirty-three count samples.



Karl E. Torline
Branch Chief

Distribution: HQ, RG, CM, FM, and FS

Originating Office: Standardization Section

File Maintenance Instructions: File in Directive Binder